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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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660e.61/1-352

XR-760e.2

FROM : AMLEGATION, HELSINKI, FINLAND

533

January 3, 1952

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

AIR POUCH

JAN 5

1951

REF :

SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS JOIN IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS PRESENT TO FAGERHOLM

For Dept.

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As a small but perhaps significant item, the Netherlands Minister, who is Dean of the Corps, informed me at the 50th birthday reception of Mr. Fagerholm, Speaker of the Diet, that all of the communist Chiefs of Mission in Helsinki had joined the other Chiefs of Mission in giving a birthday present to Mr. Fagerholm. The matter appears significant in that Fagerholm is one of the top whipping boys of the communist press, and his Premiership has been more criticized by the communists than that of any other post war administration. Since the communist Chiefs of Mission led by the Soviet agreed to join in the present only at the last moment, it is probable that the action was taken on instructions from Moscow. Taken in conjunction with various other trifling but increasingly numerous indications of a more friendly attitude toward Finland, it suggests that the Soviets may have modified their policy toward this area and it is perhaps not too much to assume that there is a connection between this new trend and the indications that the Soviets are quietly promoting a neutral northern block.

John M. Cabot

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